

Serial No.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 22-30 and 32-39 are currently pending. Claims 5, 6, 14, and 31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10, and 17 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended with the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claim 6. Claim 10 has been amended with the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claim 14. Claim 17 has been amended with the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claim 31. Claims 33-39 have been added and reflect the subject matter of allowed method claims 20 and 22-27 in apparatus form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Patent Office rejected claims 1 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seazholtz, U.S. Patent No. 5,920,821, in view of La Medica, U.S. Patent No. 6,625,451, and further in view of Bridges, U.S. Patent No. 6,397,064.

The Patent Office rejected claims 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seazholtz in view of La Medica and Bridges, and further in view of McGregor, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0000777.

The Patent Office rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seazholtz in view of La Medica and Bridges, and further in view of Mizikovsky, U.S. Patent No. 5,983,115.

The Patent Office rejected claims 5, 8, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Seazholtz, in view of La Medica and Bridges, and further in view of Bamburak, U.S. Patent No. 6,807,418.

The Patent Office rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seazholtz in view of La Medica McGregor, and Bridges, and further in view of Mizikovsky, U.S. Patent No. 5,983,115.

The Patent Office rejected claims 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Seazholtz, La Medica, McGregor, and Bridges, and further in view of Bamburak.

The Patent Office rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Seazholtz in view of La Medica, McGregor, and Bridges, and further in view of Osmani, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,807.

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Without admitting implicitly or explicitly a need to amend, to advance prosecution the claims have been amended such that claim 1 has incorporated the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 6, claim 10 has incorporated the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 14, claim 17 has incorporated the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 31, claim 32 has been amended to recite subject matter similar to that recited by claim 1 as amended, and claims 33-39 are apparatus claims which recite subject matter similar to that recited by allowed method claims 20 and 22-27.

With the amendment of the claims, all currently pending claims now recite indicated-as-allowable subject matter.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims 1-17, 19, and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Seazholtz, La Medica, Bridges, McGregor, Mizikovsky, Bamburak, and/ or Osmani, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 22-30, and 32-39 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 22-30, and 32-39 is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted:

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

7.27.2010 Jessica Allen
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